

*Time Allocation*

that as a reform. According to the budget estimates presented only last month, corporations that were to pay \$14.5 billion paid a mere \$12.5 billion. Is that tax reform?

• (1200)

Another person might have suggested that the Minister of Finance lies, but he is an honourable man and that cannot be said of him.

Let us take a look at what a member of his own party, the member for Halton—Peel, said on national television Sunday night. He said: “We must have the GST. We have to raise more money to reduce the deficit, continue to pay for our educational programs and our medical programs across the country”—those which were cut in this budget—“but we are going to do it because this will give us an opportunity to reduce the deficit and the debt”.

The hon. member for Halton—Peel is an honourable man too, but he suffers from excessive ambition. He would take the place of the Minister of Finance.

When we are talking about the effects of the GST, let us leave with a word of caution from members of the tourist industry who say that the implementation of such a tax measure will cause the loss of 30,000 jobs in that particular industry—5,000 in Ontario alone.

Those kinds of actions and consequences are not the marks of an honourable man, and the Minister of Finance does not deserve the title.

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs)):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this debate today. I have been listening with great interest to the debate these past couple of days.

I understand the hon. member for Eglinton—Lawrence standing and mocking the Minister of Finance and trying to make him out as a mean-spirited individual. I understand the Liberals’ concern about the current Minister of Finance because he is the best Minister of Finance this country has seen in 40 years. The member is so upset about it because there is not a soul in that caucus who could even tie his shoes.

Who over there would be the Minister of Finance? Would it be the hon. member from the east coast who was on national television to debate the Minister of

Finance? Is he going to be their Minister of Finance if they ever gain power? The present minister wiped the floor with him in Edmonton. There he is, he just came into the House. I welcome him. I am glad he is here.

I understand why the Liberals are so concerned about the Minister of Finance. It is because he is good and they know it. He has been an excellent Minister of Finance for this country.

The hon. member talked about the rich getting the breaks. The GST is a consumption tax. I want to educate my hon. friend because he comes from an area of the city where they have high-income and low-income people. He has a mixed constituency, much like I have. The GST is a consumption tax. The more you consume, the more tax you pay. The more expensive the things you buy are, the more tax you pay.

Who is going to be paying more tax under the GST? The wealthy, of course they are. He failed to point that out in his little diatribe. Of course that is what a consumption tax is all about.

Today we are debating time allocation. The reason that the government has brought in time allocation is for the very reason that you hear from across the floor of the House. The Liberals brought in a series of motions to negate each clause in the bill. That is all that was in these motions. They did not make amendments to improve the bill, but strictly to wipe out the bill.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Scrap the tax, that’s what we want.

**Mr. McDermid:** They had an opportunity to do that with their votes, but, no, they would not participate.

The other thing about the Liberal Party of Canada is that it has no alternatives—absolutely no alternatives whatsoever.

**Mr. Mills:** How can you say that with a straight face?

**Mr. McDermid:** They had no alternatives to the free trade agreement. Everybody remembers the former leader standing there and saying: “I’m going to tear it up. I’m going to tear it up”.

Now, the candidates for the leadership of that party are going around the country saying: “We are going to wipe out the GST”. I am going to tell you, one of the things they are not saying to the Canadian people is what